

State Governments are expected to ensure transparency in admission of students in NRI quota.

**Financial responsibility under Right to Education Act**

1962. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Right to Education Act, 2005 provide for Central Government's responsibility of financial assistance to State Governments, technical resource support to the State Governments, monitoring progress of implementation and appropriate steps in case of default;

(b) if so, whether all these provisions have been dropped altogether in the Model Bill, 2006; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The draft Right to Education Bill, 2005 contained provisions relating to responsibility of the Central Government consisting of, *inter alia*, provision of financial assistance to State Governments & sharing of costs of implementation of the Right to Education Act, provision of technical resource support to the State Governments, development of national curriculum framework, development and enforcement of standards for training and qualification of teachers for elementary education and monitoring progress of implementation of various interventions, schemes and programmes for achieving the objectives of Right to Education Act. Subsequently, the small group appointed by the Prime Minister, which included HRD Minister, Finance Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman, PM's Economic Advisory Council had a comprehensive discussion on the legal and constitutional implications and the concomitant financial requirements of the draft Bill. The group suggested that instead of framing a Central Legislation, the States should be encouraged to formulate their own legislations. The group also suggested that there is need for States to adopt correct allocations priorities, and therefore, after law and order, elementary education should be the first charge on States' resources. Based on further consultations, a draft Model Right to Education Bill, spelling out broad parameters and features for achieving the Constitutional

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mandate of free and compulsory education was drafted and circulated as framework to the States/UTs to seek their comments thereon.

**Mid-day meal scheme**

1963. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain category of school children are provided mid-day meal at school;

(b) if so, the details with allocation made, spent and the number of beneficiary children, during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are reports of such meal being of poor quality and prepared in unhygienic conditions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are considering to allow reputed fast food manufacturers to take over the mid-day meal scheme; and

(f) if so, the details with reaction of the industry to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme covers children studying at primary level (classes I-V; in Government, Local Body and Government-aided schools, and EGS & AIE centres.

(b) Under the scheme, allocation is made for foodgrains component based on coverage of children reported by the States. State-wise details of children covered, foodgrains allocated and lifted during the last three years is given in Statement-I (See below). Central assistance was released mainly for cooking cost component from 2004-05 onwards. Assistance released to States during 2004-05 and 2005-06 is given in Statement-II (See below).

(c) and (d) State-wise details of children affected is given in Statement-III (See below).

(e) No, Sir.

(f) In view of (e) above, does not arise.